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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
Eleventh session
22 April-3 May 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Substantive theme: ways and means of ensuring the participation of developing countries in international cooperation for research on and development of environmentally sound technologies, and the rapid and effective transfer of such technologies to the developing countries.

4. Financing science and technology for development.

5. Assessment of the impact of the activities of the United Nations system in promoting endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in the field of science and technology.

6. Activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development, including those of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

7. Programme questions.

8. Election of the Chairman and nomination of other officers for the twelfth session of the Committee, and appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

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9. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the twelfth session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In response to a decision taken by the Committee at its tenth session, the Eastern European Group nominated Ladislav Kovac (Czechoslovakia) as Chairman for the eleventh session. Other regional groups agreed to nominate members of the Bureau, as follows:

Vice-Chairmen: Dulce Arnao de Uzcategui (Venezuela)
Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria)
Mahbub Kabir (Bangladesh)

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Items contained in the present provisional agenda were approved by the Committee at its tenth session. The provisional organization of work will be formulated in consultation with the Bureau and made available at the commencement of the meeting.

3. Substantive theme: ways and means of ensuring the participation of developing countries in international cooperation for research on and development of environmentally sound technologies, and the rapid and effective transfer of such technologies to the developing countries

At its tenth session, in 1989, the Committee decided that the substantive theme for its eleventh session would be "Ways and means of ensuring the participation of developing countries in international cooperation for research on and development of environmentally sound technologies, and the rapid and effective transfer of such technologies to those countries", and requested the Centre for Science and Technology for Development to prepare a comprehensive and analytical report, in consultation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system (resolution 2 (X)).

The subject of environmentally sound technologies and their transfer to developing countries on favourable and concessional terms, which was discussed at the tenth session of the Committee, was intensely debated by the Second Committee of the General Assembly in the context of resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

In that resolution, the Assembly decided to examine, with a view to making recommendations, effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries,

including on concessional and preferential terms, and modalities for supporting all countries in their efforts to create and develop their endogenous technological capacities in the field of scientific research and development, as well as in the acquisition of relevant information, and, in that context, to explore the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies, in its relation to proprietary rights, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in that area.

For the preparation of the comprehensive and analytical report on the substantive theme, comments and suggestions were sought on the preliminary outline of the overall concept of environmentally sound technology assessment (ESTA) from the organizations of the United Nations system. The outline was discussed at the tenth session of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development in April 1990, and at the eleventh session of the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), held in May 1990. The report of the Secretary-General has been prepared on the basis of inputs received from the Advisory Committee and the ACC Task Force and from other sources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of ensuring the participation of developing countries in international cooperation for research on and development of environmentally sound technologies, and the rapid and effective transfer of such technologies to the developing countries (A/CN.11/1991/2)

Background document entitled "Environmentally sound technology assessment (ESTA)" (unedited draft)

4. Financing science and technology for development

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to include an item entitled "Financing science and technology for development" in the agenda of its eleventh session, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to it on the question (resolution 1 (X), D). It may be recalled that, on several earlier occasions, the Committee had considered the topic of financing science and technology for development; furthermore, at its eighth session, it considered the substantive theme of mobilization of financial resources for science and technology for development.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/14, requested the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of organizing a more effective coalition of resources within the United Nations development system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to strengthen the endogenous capacity-building of developing countries in science and technology. This aspect was also considered by the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its tenth session, held at Zhuhai, China, and substantive inputs have been provided.

Drawing upon various sources, both inside and outside the United Nations system, the Secretary-General has prepared a comprehensive and analytical report for the consideration of the Committee. The report contains information on the activities of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development and on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on financing science and technology for development (A/CN.11/1991/3)

5. Assessment of the impact of the activities of the United Nations system in promoting endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in the field of science and technology

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to include in the agenda of its eleventh session an item entitled "Assessment of the impact of the activities of the United Nations system in promoting endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in the field of science and technology", and requested the Centre, in consultation with Member States, to prepare an analytical report on the contribution of the United Nations system to endogenous capacity-building, taking into account ongoing and planned pilot projects on endogenous capacity-building, inter-agency missions and other activities of the Centre (resolution 2 (X)).

The Centre prepared a document entitled "Endogenous capacity-building in science and technology: retrospect and prospect", which was reviewed by the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development at its eleventh session in May 1990.

The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, at its tenth session, formulated certain considerations or criteria in regard to endogenous capacity-building for the use primarily of the donor community. Those considerations and the work of the Advisory Committee on the subject were transmitted to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a request to provide relevant information.

The report of the Secretary-General on this subject is based mainly on the ongoing and planned activities of the Centre and may be submitted to the Committee at its twelfth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the activities of the United Nations system in promoting endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in the field of science and technology (A/CN.11/1991/4)

Summary of correspondence received from organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system (A/CN.11/1991/CRP.1)

6. Activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development, including those of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development

This agenda item encompasses in its scope a wide range of items, including the activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development, and those of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

It may be recalled that the Committee, at its tenth session, in the context of the end-of-decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development (A/CN.11/89), discussed in considerable detail the activities of the United Nations system in science and technology and, in particular, coordination and harmonization. It called upon the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system to enhance coordination and harmonization at the country level, including the inter-agency missions, and requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to ensure close monitoring and follow-up of the mandated programmes and activities of the United Nations system in the areas of science and technology for development for the successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to report thereon regularly to the Intergovernmental Committee.

In its resolution 2 (X) on the activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development, including those of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development, the Committee approved the draft programme in science and technology of the United Nations medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

The Committee requested the Centre to submit a report to the Committee at its eleventh session, with inputs from the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, on the available scientific methodologies for the planning and management of science and technology policy to promote the development of science and technology in developing countries. It also requested the Secretary-General to include in his report on the activities of the Centre a section on the progress made in the involvement of women in the various subject areas.

Documentation

Report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on new developments and trends in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in science and technology (A/CN.11/1991/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (A/CN.11/1991/9)

Scientific methodologies for planning and management of science and technology policy to promote the development of science and technology in developing countries (A/CN.11/1991/CRP.2)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/CN.11/1991/6)

Note by the Secretary-General on the registry of national focal points for science and technology for development (A/CN.11/1991/7)

7. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance and implementation

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/238, the Committee will have before it relevant excerpts from the reports of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Add.1) and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its thirtieth session (A/45/16).

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 containing, inter alia, Programme 17. Science and technology for development, and reaffirmed that the plan is the principal policy directive of the United Nations and shall serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets (resoluton 45/253).

The Committee will have before it for discussion a note by the Secretariat on the proposed work programme of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development for the biennium 1992-1993, drawn up in accordance with the programme on science and technology of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 [A/45/6 (Prog. 17)].

The Secretariat will also inform the Committee about possible revisions to the medium-term plan covering the biennium 1994-1995.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed work programme of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/CN.11/1991/)

8. Election of the Chairman and nomination of other officers for the twelfth session of the Committee

Following resolution 3 (VII), the Committee is requested to elect the Chairman for its twelfth session and to request the appropriate regional groups to nominate other members of the Bureau.

In addition, the Committee will have before it two notes regarding respectively the procedure for appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and on the interim appointment of a member of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the procedure for appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/CN.11/1991/8)

Note by the Secretary-General on the interim appointment of a member of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (A/CN.11/1991/10)

9. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the twelfth session of the Committee

The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for its twelfth session, the documents to be submitted under each item and proposals on the organization of its work.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee

The Committee submits its report and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to Assembly resolution 37/14 C, in which the Assembly reiterated that, in preparing their reports, subsidiary organs should strive to keep such reports within the desirable limit of 32 pages, and requested all subsidiary organs whose reports exceeded that limit to submit to the Committee on Conferences, prior to its next session, reasons for non-compliance.